

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A breathable laminate, comprising:
a breathable, microporous, elastic film; and
a nonwoven facing material bonded to the film;
wherein the laminate is selectively stretched in one or more regions thereof to form zones of differential breathability; and
wherein each of the zones of differential breathability comprises a portion of the film and a portion of the nonwoven facing material.

2. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the zones of differential breathability comprise at least one zone of higher breathability and at least one zone of moderate breathability, and the at least one zone of higher breathability has a water vapor transmission rate at least 10% higher than a water vapor transmission rate of the at least one zone of moderate breathability.

3. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the zones of differential breathability comprise at least one zone of higher breathability and at least one zone of moderate breathability, and the at least one zone of higher breathability has a water vapor transmission rate at least 30% higher than a water vapor transmission rate of the at least one zone of moderate breathability.

4. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the zones of differential breathability comprise at least one zone of higher breathability and at least one zone of moderate breathability, and the at least one zone of higher breathability has a water vapor transmission rate at least 50% higher than a water vapor transmission rate of the at least one zone of moderate breathability.

5. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the water vapor transmission rate of the at least one zone of moderate breathability is at least about 500 grams/m²-24 hours.

6. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the water vapor transmission rate of the at least one zone of moderate breathability is at least about 750 grams/m²-24 hours.

7. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the water vapor transmission rate of the at least one zone of moderate breathability is at least about 1000 grams/m²-24 hours.

8. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the laminate is elastomeric.

9. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the facing material is necked.

10. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the facing material is elastomeric.

11. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the selectively stretched regions are stretched at least twice.

12. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the laminate can be stretched by about 50% to about 200% in a cross direction.

13. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the laminate can be stretched by about 70% to about 170% in a cross direction.

14. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the laminate can be stretched by about 100% to about 150% in a cross direction.

15. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the laminate can be stretched by about 50% to about 200% in a machine direction.

16. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the laminate can be stretched by about 70% to about 170% in a machine direction.

17. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the laminate can be stretched by about 100% to about 150% in a cross direction.

18. (Original) An absorbent article outer cover comprising the laminate of Claim 1.

19. (Currently Amended) A breathable laminate, comprising:
a breathable, microporous, elastic film having a first water vapor transmission rate before lamination; and
a nonwoven, facing material laminated to the film to form the laminate;
the laminate having at least one zone of moderate breathability with a water vapor transmission rate not greater than the first water vapor transmission rate of the film, and at least one zone of higher breathability with a second water vapor transmission rate at least 10% higher than the first water vapor transmission rate of the film, wherein each of the zone of moderate breathability and the zone of higher breathability comprises a portion of the film and a portion of the nonwoven facing material.

20. (Original) The laminate of Claim 19, wherein the at least one zone of higher breathability has a second water vapor transmission rate at least 30% higher than the water vapor transmission rate of the film.

21. (Original) The laminate of Claim 19, wherein the at least one zone of higher breathability has a second water vapor transmission rate at least 50% higher than the water vapor transmission rate of the film.

22. (Original) The laminate of Claim 19, wherein the first water vapor transmission rate of the film is at least about 500 grams/m²-24 hours.

23. (Original) The laminate of Claim 19, wherein the first water vapor transmission rate of the film is at least about 750 grams/m²-24 hours.

24. (Original) The laminate of Claim 19, wherein the first water vapor transmission rate of the film is at least about 1000 grams/m²-24 hours.

25. (Original) The laminate of Claim 19, wherein the laminate is elastomeric.

26. (Original) The laminate of Claim 19, wherein the facing material is necked.

27. (Original) The laminate of Claim 19, wherein the facing material is elastomeric.

28. (Original) The laminate of Claim 19, wherein the facing material is adhesively bonded to the film.

29. (Original) An absorbent article outer cover comprising the laminate of Claim 19.

30. (Currently Amended) An outer cover for absorbent articles, comprising a breathable laminate;

the breathable laminate including a breathable, microporous, elastic film and a nonwoven facing material bonded to the film;

wherein the laminate is selectively stretched in one or more regions thereof to form zones of differential breathability; and

wherein each of the zones of differential breathability comprises a portion of the film and a portion of the nonwoven facing material.

31. (Original) The outer cover of Claim 30, wherein the laminate is selectively stretched in one or more regions prior to incorporation in the absorbent article.

32. (Original) The outer cover of Claim 30, wherein the laminate is selectively stretched in one or more regions subsequent to incorporation in the absorbent article.

33. (Original) The outer cover of Claim 30, wherein the laminate is selectively stretched in one or more regions as the absorbent article is applied to a wearer.

34. (Original) The outer cover of Claim 30, wherein the laminate comprises at least one zone of moderate breathability and at least one zone of higher breathability.

35. (Original) The outer cover of Claim 34, wherein the laminate has a water vapor transmission rate of at least about 500 grams/m²-24 hours in the zone of moderate breathability.

36. (Original) The outer cover of Claim 34, wherein the laminate has a water vapor transmission rate of at least about 750 grams/m²-24 hours in the zone of moderate breathability.

37. (Original) The outer cover of Claim 34, wherein the laminate has a water vapor transmission rate of at least about 1000 grams/m²-24 hours in the zone of moderate breathability.

38. (Original) The outer cover of Claim 30, wherein the facing material is necked.

39. (Original) The outer cover of Claim 30, wherein the facing material is elastomeric.

40. (Original) The outer cover of Claim 30, wherein the selectively stretched regions are stretched at least twice.

41. (Currently Amended) A method of making an outer cover for absorbent articles, comprising the steps of:

forming a breathable laminate by bonding a nonwoven facing material to a breathable, microporous, elastic film; and

selectively stretching the breathable laminate in one or more regions thereof to form zones of differential breathability; and

wherein each of the zones of differential breathability comprises a portion of the film and a portion of the nonwoven facing material.

42. (Original) The method of Claim 41, further comprising the step of selectively stretching the laminate in one or more regions prior to incorporation of the laminate in the absorbent article.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 41, further comprising the step of selectively stretching the laminate in one or more regions subsequent to incorporation of the laminate in the absorbent article.

44. (Original) The method of Claim 41, further comprising the step of selectively stretching the laminate in one or more regions as the absorbent article is applied to a wearer.